



WASHTENAW COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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On September 12, 2005 the Washtenaw County Health Improvement Plan (HIP) will be celebrating the tenth anniversary of its successful health improvement partnership. This event will be held at Washtenaw Community College from 12 noon – 2 p.m. The celebration lunch will include a keynote address by Dr. Marc Zimmerman, University of Michigan School of Public Health, Health Behavior / Health Education co-chair entitled "Healthy Communities Partnerships: Why They Work".

HIP partner Ruth Shantz of Chelsea Community Hospital has been involved from the beginning. According to Ruth, "HIP data catalyzed the community's ability to perceive and attend to local chronic disease issues such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease and stroke. As a response, community-based programs such as the Healthy Communities Walking Program to reduce chronic disease risk factors were developed."

Also featured in the celebration will be an update on the progress toward HIP's health objectives which were set in 1995 with the goal of health improvement by the year 2005. Plans for the upcoming community-wide HIP telephone health survey of 2000 households, scheduled to take place between Oct – Dec. 2005 will also be announced at the celebration lunch. "This celebration marks 10 years of tracking health indicators at the local level. This is a valuable source of local data for many community partners", according to Ellen Clement, Health Officer at Washtenaw County Public Health.

To attend the event, contact Melissa Fochesato at (734) 544-3083 or fochesam@ewashtenaw.org For more information about the Health Improvement Plan, including past data reports, presentations, publications and ways to get involved, visit http://hip.ewashtenaw.org

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